

REMARKS

Claims 53, 55, 56, 61, and 66 are currently pending in the Application, each claim being an independent claim. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's prior indication of allowable subject matter in the application.

Reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested. Claims 42-52, 54, 57, 59, 60, 62-65, and 67-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Pending Claims are Patentable:

Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims without prejudice or disclaimer, and reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application. Applicants have amended claims 53, 55, 56, and 61 to include the subject matter of independent claims 45, 57, or 65, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion in the Office Action mailed on January 22, 2003.

Independent claim 66 was deemed patentable over 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph by the Examiner in the Advisory Action mailed on May 2, 2003. Accordingly, Applicants believe that pending claims 53, 55, 56, 61, and 66 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present Application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

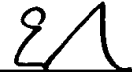
Prompt and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

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